

**PUBLIC SAFETY & PUBLIC INFORMATION COMMITTEE**  
**Of the**  
**Suffolk County Legislature**

**Minutes**

A regular meeting of the Public Safety & Public Information Committee of the Suffolk County Legislature was held in the Rose Y. Caracappa Legislative Auditorium of the William H. Rogers Legislature Building, 725 Veterans Memorial Highway, Smithtown, New York, on **April 6, 2004**.

**Members Present:**

Legislator Angie Carpenter - Chairperson

Legislator Pete O'Leary - Vice-Chair

Legislator David Bishop

Legislator William Lindsay

Legislator Andrew Crecca

Legislator Daniel Losquadro

Legislator Lynne Nowick

**Also In Attendance:**

Legislator Cameron Alden - District #10

Mea Knapp - Counsel to the Legislature

Alexandra Sullivan - Chief Deputy Clerk/Suffolk County Legislature

Doug Sutherland - Aide to Legislator Carpenter

Ed Hogan - Aide to Legislator Nowick

Linda Bay - Aide to Presiding Officer Caracappa

Kevin LaValle - Aide to Legislator Losquadro

Joanne Doering - Budget Analyst/Budget Review Office

Ben Zwirn - Assistant Deputy County Executive

Walter Denzler - Undersheriff/Suffolk County Sheriff's Office

Donald Sullivan - Undersheriff/Suffolk County Sheriff's Office.

Alan Otto - Chief of Staff/Suffolk County Sheriff's Office.

Richard Dormer - Commissioner/Suffolk County Police Department

Robert Scharf - Lieutenant/Suffolk County Police Dept

John McElhove - Chief of Patrol/Suffolk County Police Department

Debbie Eppel - Public Information Office

Dave Fischler - Commissioner/Fire, Rescue & Emergency Services

Vito Dagnello - President/Correction Officer's Association

Bill Ellis - Director of Public Relations/Correction Officer's Assoc.

Vincent DeMarco - President/Deputy Sheriff's Benevolent Association

Mike Sharkey - 2nd Vice-President/Deputy Sheriff's Benevolent Assoc.

Jerry Gilmore - Vice-President/Superior Officer's Association

Dena Cohen - President/MADD of Long Island

All Other Interested Parties

Minutes Taken By:

Lucia Braaten - Court Stenographer

***[THE MEETING WAS CALLED TO ORDER AT 1:08 P.M.]***

**CHAIRPERSON CARPENTER:**

Good afternoon. Welcome to the Public Safety and Public Information Committee. And I would like to ask Legislator O'Leary to lead us in the Pledge of Allegiance.

***(SALUTATION)***

Thank you. We have -- before we go to the agenda, we have one card, Diane Cohen, if want to come forward and sit at the table. Okay. Diane, if you wish to just identify yourself and who you represent.

**MS. COHEN:**

Hi. I put my name down as Diane, because that's my legal name, but I'm always called Dena. I am here as a representative, victims advocate, and President of MADD Long Island. And I just wanted to read a short little statement. First, I'd like to say good afternoon to all of you. I want to take a moment of your time today. I'm here on behalf --

**LEG. NOWICK:**

Pull the mike a little closer.

**MS. COHEN:**

Oh. I'm here on behalf of all the victims of DWI crashes on Long Island.

The need for a car seizure law on Long Island is very important. Last year, 48 people lost their lives in DWI crashes, many the result of repeat offending drunk drivers. My daughter, Jody, was killed by a four-time repeat offending drunk driver. Perhaps if that offender's car was taken, my child would be here today.

Last year, there were over 17,000 fatalities due to DWI crashes in this country. That's the same as a fully loaded 747 crashing once a month for a year. We wouldn't sit back quietly and just let that happen.

Drunk driving is a choice that people make. Some people say, "Well, they're alcoholics," but the disease of alcoholism does not make one drive while under the influence. I hear too often that the drunk driver cries hardship, they need to get to work, or the car they were driving in while intoxicated is needed for their livelihood. What about the life they took or the injuries they caused? The innocent victim that was in the other car can't earn a living anymore either. What about them?

When a person has a crash while driving drunk, the car becomes the instrument of the crime. I know of no other offense where the instrument used in the commission of a crime is returned to the offender. Is a gun returned to a shooter until the case is adjudicated? I think not. So why, then, is a car returned to the person that just took the life or just injured another?

I know I'm just a mother, a mother that has lost her 21 year old daughter to a drunk driver. All of you here today have the power in your hands to make a difference, the difference of life or death. You have the power in your hands to help stop this violent crime. How would you feel if the life of someone you loved was taken by a repeat drunk driver and you knew you had the power to have prevented it and didn't?

Please, make this work. Pass this most important measure and make a difference. Legislator Alden worked very hard on this and he knows it will work.

Thank you all for listening to me and for giving me this opportunity to speak with you. On behalf of myself, MADD Long Island, all the victims of this violent crime, and most importantly

my daughter, Jody, I wish you a sweet and safe holiday, and thank you.

**CHAIRPERSON CARPENTER:**

Dena, thank you very much for coming down today and advocating as you do. I'm sure it's not easy. Legislator Alden is here, and I do know that the public hearing for Resolution 1237 was closed, so that this is eligible for us to act on. If -- did you have any comments that you wanted to make, Legislator Alden?

**LEG. ALDEN:**

Yes. I've been working with the County Attorney's Office, and even as late as a couple of days ago they asked me to make a couple of more changes, which I've done, to the bill, and it was in language in the intent clauses. So, this is a bill that has been crafted with a lot of -- not even give and take, it's just a lot of good hard work on both sides, I think, and we really have to put this program back into -- or implement, reimplement this program.

**CHAIRPERSON CARPENTER:**

Thank you. I appreciate that. And thank you for your work. I know this is something that was very much supported by the Legislature when we passed it initially. Legislator, I believe Crecca, and then Legislator Lindsay.

**LEG. CRECCA:**

I just wanted to take a moment, point of personal privilege, to thank Dena, not just for coming down today, but I've had the opportunity to work with Dena at several different programs that were sponsored by MADD, and you really do make a difference, and you're very good communicating with whether it's students that you're talking to, whoever your audience is. So, thank you for coming down here today and for being a part of today's proceedings, so, thanks.

**MS. COHEN:**

Thank you.

**CHAIRPERSON CARPENTER:**

Thank you, Legislator Crecca.

**LEG. CRECCA:**

And is it appropriate to take a motion to take it out of order at this time, Madam Chairman.

**CHAIRPERSON CARPENTER:**

Well, I plan on doing that, but --

**LEG. CRECCA:**

Okay, sure.

**CHAIRPERSON CARPENTER:**

-- Legislator Lindsay was next to speak.

**LEG. LINDSAY:**

Yeah, just a question for Counsel. Has the defects, as prescribed by the Court with the previous law, been corrected in this bill?

**MS. KNAPP:**

Yes. That was the entire point of redoing the law. Yeah, we did.

**LEG. ALDEN:**

Can I add one thing to that? In speaking with the County Attorney's Office, and it's the position of the County Attorney that our law has never been found to be defective, and what we're doing is, with the County Attorney's Office and through my efforts, what we've done is take into consideration other jurisdictions and judgments that have come down in other jurisdictions and have corrected our law, so that they really couldn't be challenged in the future.

**CHAIRPERSON CARPENTER:**

Again, thank you very much for your efforts. I will then make a motion, actually, it is the first resolution on the agenda, 1237, to take it out of order.

**LEG. O'LEARY:**

Second.

**CHAIRPERSON CARPENTER:**

Second by Legislator O'Leary. The motion is before us. Motion to approve 1237 ***[I.R. 1237-04 Adopting Local Law No. 2004, A Local Law reforming and strengthening of procedure***

***used in connection with the "DWI Seizure Law" (Alden)]***, second by Legislator Losquadro. All those in favor? Opposed? ***The resolution is passed (Vote: 7-0-0-0)***. Again, thank you very much, and thank you Legislator Alden.

**LEG. CRECCA:**

And list me as a cosponsor, please, Madam Clerk.

**LEG. LOSQUADRO:**

Cosponsor, also.

**CHAIRPERSON CARPENTER:**

Is there anyone who would not like to be a cosponsor? All right. Then put the committee on as cosponsor. Thank you very much.

**LEG. BISHOP:**

I'm not. I'm supporting it, but I didn't work on it. I don't sponsor things I didn't work on.

**CHAIRPERSON CARPENTER:**

Legislator Bishop is not a cosponsor. Okay. Before we go to the agenda, I would just ask -- I know that there are Department Heads here represented, Sheriffs and the Police Department. Is there anyone -- and FRES. Did anyone have anything they wanted to address the committee on in particular, or any particular resolution? And since we had such a long committee meeting last time, we're going to move right to the agenda, and hopefully, we'll make up for it.

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### **INTRODUCTORY RESOLUTIONS**

***Resolution 1238 [Adopting Local Law No - 2004, A Local Law to amend Local Law No. 11-2003, extending full benefits of real property tax law exemption for volunteer firefighters and ambulance workers (Caracappa)***, a Local Law to amend 11-2003. That will have to be tabled pending the public portion. But I would ask everyone to note that this volunteer firefighter, the FASNY newsletter that was distributed, and thank you for that, that I think speaks to this issue.

**LEG. LINDSAY:**

Can I ask a question?

**CHAIRPERSON CARPENTER:**

Sure.

**LEG. LINDSAY:**

Yeah. I wanted to ask Counsel this. When we passed this legislation last year, I was under the assumption that it contained provisions that if the State statute was changed, we would automatically be in compliance.

**MS. KNAPP:**

I'm actually not familiar with that, and I will look at it. However, it is -- it is difficult, if not impossible, to opt into a law before it's enacted without knowing what the provisions of the State law might be. So, it -- you know, I mean, the only time that I can think of is in a Home Rule, but even then, we pass the local law afterwards.

**LEG. LINDSAY:**

I admit, it was unusual, but when we debated this last year, we knew that the State statute was defective, and I thought we anticipated the problem with the Corrections. But, I mean, it's not that I'm not supportive of it, it's just that I'm questioning whether we need additional legislation, or the legislation that we passed last year would suffice.

**MS. KNAPP:**

You may be thinking of two different things.

**LEG. LINDSAY:**

Okay.

**MS. KNAPP:**

There was -- there was an amendment to the statute that was a -- what I would call a technical correction to the statute. This one's a little bit different.

**CHAIRPERSON CARPENTER:**

And I guess it's like suspenders and a belt. Okay. Again, motion to table by Legislator Lindsay, second by Legislator Nowick, pending the Public Hearing. **(Tabled - Vote: 7-0-0-0)**

**1273 - Local Law in connection with the abatement of crack houses (and public nuisances) (Presiding Officer on request of County Exec).** That, too, is a Local Law pending a public hearing. Motion to table, second by Legislator O'Leary. All those in favor? Opposed? **Resolution is Tabled (Vote: 7-0-0-0).**

**1288 - Amending prior capital authorized appropriations for the personal body alarm system for Riverhead Medium and maximum Security Correctional Facilities (CP 3033) (PO on request of the County Exec).** I had checked on this and it seems that there have been some changes in the technology, and the monies needed are not as much as they were originally anticipated to be. So that is what this resolution is about.

**LEG. CRECCA:**

Is the extra money -- the money that's not needed, is it not being authorized, or is it being authorized for some other expense at this point?

**CHAIRPERSON CARPENTER:**

Let me take a look at the backup, or maybe Counsel wants to --

**LEG. CRECCA:**

Budget Review, could you answer that, please?

**MR. SPERO:**

The money is being transferred from planning and construction appropriation to a furniture and equipment line. So, in other words, we won't need any planning or construction funds, we just need to use the money to buy the equipment. That's what the resolution is doing.

**LEG. CRECCA:**

Where was this money originally coming from, wasn't there -- was it in the Capital Budget --

**MR. SPERO:**

It was pay-as-you-go money we appropriated last year for the body alarms.

**LEG. CRECCA:**

Okay.



**MR. SPERO:**

And when the funds were appropriated, 50,000 in planning, and 500,000 in construction, and 50,000 for equipment. This resolution would put all the funding into the equipment line.

**LEG. CRECCA:**

Yeah, I don't understand that either.

**MR. SPERO:**

Construction, I guess, for the installation of the body alarms, which, apparently, is not needed.

**CHAIRPERSON CARPENTER:**

I believe it might be for some sort of panel to transmit the information; is that correct? No, it's not. You know what, Al Otto, Alan Otto is here. Why don't we have him come up and he can explain exactly what it's all about.

**CHIEF OTTO:**

Good afternoon. Okay. The original project was based on old technology. It was going to be a great deal of construction. Some money was set aside for construction, some was set aside for equipment. Technology has changed where we don't even have to do any real level of construction, all the money should be transmitted into equipment. The money hasn't changed at all, the money was appropriated, so the original amount of money, the full \$600,000 is just being put into equipment, and the equipment is going to be a series of radios, so they have direct communication, with panic buttons on the radios, and the repeater system that will be installed inside the facility. It would be the first time that every single post will have this radio/body alarm system for all posts.

**CHAIRPERSON CARPENTER:**

Okay. Thank you. Okay. I will make a motion.

**LEG. NOWICK:**

Second.

**CHAIRPERSON CARPENTER:**

Motion to approve, second by Legislator Nowick.

**LEG. CRECCA:**

I just wanted to ask before --

**D.P.O. CARPENTER:**

On the motion, Legislator Crecca.

**LEG. CRECCA:**

I just wanted -- with the changes, I just wanted to make sure that the Correction Officers, who are obviously affected by this, are supportive of the resolution. I see they are, right?

**CHAIRPERSON CARPENTER:**

Yeah.

**CHIEF OTTO:**

As a matter of fact, they will, as I -- my intention with the new technology and requested it.

**LEG. CRECCA:**

No problem. I see the President, Vito Dagnello nodding his head yes, and I'll take that as an affirmative.

**CHAIRPERSON CARPENTER:**

And I did make that phone call.

**LEG. CRECCA:**

Sorry.

**CHAIRPERSON CARPENTER:**

Thank you. Motion to approve, second by Legislator Nowick. All those in favor? Opposed? ***The resolution is approved (Vote: 7-0-0-0)*** . Thank you. Thank you, Chief Otto.

***1293 - Appropriating funds in connection with the purchase of heavy duty vehicles for the Police Department (CP 3135) (PO on request of the County Exec).*** Is there a motion?

**LEG. LINDSAY:**

Motion.

**LEG. O'LEARY:**

Motion.

**CHAIRPERSON CARPENTER:**

Motion by Legislator Lindsay, second by Legislator O'Leary.

**LEG. O'LEARY:**

Can I have an explanation on that, what the vehicles are?

**LEG. BISHOP:**

Heavy duty.

**LEG. CRECCA:**

They're big.

**LEG. O'LEARY:**

To do what.

**CHAIRPERSON CARPENTER:**

Transport, car carrier.

**LEG. O'LEARY:**

Oh, car carrier.

**LEG. BISHOP:**

Heavy duty.

**CHAIRPERSON CARPENTER:**

Very heavy duty car carrier.

**LEG. CRECCA:**

Can it carry really big cars?

**D.P.O. CARPENTER:**

Yes. Okay we have a motion and a second. All those in favor? Opposed? ***Resolution is approved (Vote: 7-0-0-0).***

***1294 - Appropriating funds in connection with improvements to the Police 800 MHz Radio Communication System (CP 3221) (PO on request of the County Exec).***

**LEG. LINDSAY:**

I make a motion.

**CHAIRPERSON CARPENTER:**

Motion by Legislator Lindsay, second by Legislator Losquadro. All those in favor? Opposed? ***Resolution is approved (Vote: 7-0-0-0) .***

***1307 (Accepting and appropriating additional 100% grant funds from the New York State Division of Criminal Justice Services to the Department of Health Services, Division of Medical, Legal Investigations and Forensic Sciences for the Paul Coverdell National Forensic Sciences Improvement Act Formula Funding (PO on request of the County Exec).*** Accepting and appropriating 100% grant funds from the Division of Criminal Justice. I'll make a motion to approve and put on the Consent Calendar, second by Legislator O'Leary. All those in favor? Opposed? ***Approved (Vote: 7-0-0-0).***

***1310 (Accepting and appropriating 100% Federal pass-through grant funds in the amount of \$60,000 from the NYS Division of Criminal Justice Services for the "Juvenile Firesetters Intervention Project" administered by the Department of Fire, Rescue and Emergency Services and to execute grant related agreements (PO on request of the County Exec).*** Accepting and appropriating another 100% grant from the Criminal Justice Services for "Juvenile Firesetters Intervention Project. Motion by Legislator O'Leary to approved and put on the Consent Calender, second by Legislator Crecca. All those in favor? Opposed? Approved.

***1318 - Accepting a donation of \$36,000.00 from the Estate of Helen Hahn to the***

***Suffolk County Police Department (PO on request of the County Exec).*** Motion --

**LEG. LOSQUADRO:**

Motion.

**CHAIRPERSON CARPENTER:**

-- by Legislator Nowick, second by Legislator Losquadro. All those in favor? Opposed?

***Approved (Vote: 7-0-0-0) .***

***1325 - Amending the 2004 Capital Budget and Program and appropriating funds in connection with the purchase of an additional prisoner transport bus (CP 3047) (PO on request of the County Exec).*** I guess this is to replace the million mile bus.

**LEG. LINDSAY:**

I make a motion.

**CHAIRPERSON CARPENTER:**

Motion by Legislator Lindsay, second by Legislator Crecca. All those in favor? Opposed?

***Resolution is approved (Vote: 7-0-0-0).***

***1329 - Adopting Local Law No. 2004, Amending Civil Forfeiture Law (to strengthen and clarify procedures for seizure and forfeiture of personal property (PO on request of the County Exec).*** Adopting a Local Law amending the Civil Forfeiture Law. We'll have to make a motion to table pending the public hearing, second by Legislator Bishop. All those in favor? Opposed? ***Resolution is tabled (Vote: 7-0-0-0).***

***1333 - Creating a Task Force on Public Safety staffing levels.*** I'll make a motion to approve.

**LEG. NOWICK:**

Second.

**CHAIRPERSON CARPENTER:**

Second by Legislator Nowick. This is in response to some of the policy changes that have been

made as far as the minimum staffing, and rather than acting hastily, I thought that if we put a Task Force together of the stakeholders and looked at the issue a little bit more globally, we might actually come up with some recommendations. The department is 40-plus years old. I don't know if this has ever really been done on, you know, a global level. And as one of the fastest or the fastest growing county in the State of New York, I think it certainly is more than appropriate. So, do I have a second on that?

**LEG. LOSQUADRO:**

Second.

**CHAIRPERSON CARPENTER:**

Seconded by Legislator Losquadro. All those in favor?

**LEG. BISHOP:**

On the motion.

**CHAIRPERSON CARPENTER:**

On the motion, Legislator Bishop.

**LEG. BISHOP:**

The Task Force is going to be comprised of -- can you go over for me who is going to be on it?

**CHAIRPERSON CARPENTER:**

Certainly. Someone from the Police Department, naturally, the County Executive's Office, the Legislature, each of the line organizations, PBA, SOA, SDA, Commissioner of Planning, because he has all access to all the demographics and the statistical kind of information that I think would be very helpful. Also, the -- let me see. Right, the two -- the Budget Offices, County Executive's and our Legislative Budget Review Office.

**LEG. BISHOP:**

And you assigned a budget to this Task Force?

**CHAIRPERSON CARPENTER:**

As any of the Task Forces are, a minimal amount to cover any stenographic services for the varied public hearings or --

**LEG. BISHOP:**

No. Because I noted that this Task Force has \$5,000 assigned to it, and your other Task Force bill has \$3,000 assigned to it, so I thought there was some formula that you have that --

**CHAIRPERSON CARPENTER:**

No. That was just the amount that was plugged in.

**LEG. BISHOP:**

That's just arbitrary numbers that was just plugged in.

**CHAIRPERSON CARPENTER:**

Yeah, yeah.

**LEG. BISHOP:**

The Task Force --

**CHAIRPERSON CARPENTER:**

And it's not to exceed anyway.

**LEG. BISHOP:**

Yeah.

**D.P.O. CARPENTER:**

Most often, they don't even come near spending the dollars allotted.

**LEG. BISHOP:**

What I don't understand about this is that the administration, the Police administration, not the County Executive's Office, but the Police administration, they're going to have in the end the sole power on this issue, right? Ultimately, or is this --

**CHAIRPERSON CARPENTER:**

I guess, unless --

**LEG. BISHOP:**

-- something we're contemplating Legislatively?

**CHAIRPERSON CARPENTER:**

Unless the Legislature directs otherwise.

**LEG. BISHOP:**

Because I --

**CHAIRPERSON CARPENTER:**

But I don't think that's what this is all about. This is not a power struggle, this is really just to look at the issue, so --

**LEG. BISHOP:**

Right.

**CHAIRPERSON CARPENTER:**

-- I wouldn't read more into it than it is. Are you finished?

**LEG. BISHOP:**

No, I'm not finished.

**CHAIRPERSON CARPENTER:**

Okay.

**LEG. BISHOP:**

But I'll yield, if you'd like --

**LEG. LOSQUADRO:**

Yeah, I --

**LEG. BISHOP:**

-- you know, absolutely.

**CHAIRPERSON CARPENTER:**

Okay. Legislator Losquadro.



**LEG. LOSQUADRO:**

If I could just make a point. I just wanted to speak to the need for a Task Force such as this. I don't know if you recall, I had made a request to the Commissioner in a previous committee meeting for historical data about the Seventh Precinct, being that it was not included in the report he had submitted to us. I have still not received that information, and I know the East End precincts need a long hard look at the staffing levels, being the Seventh Precinct is not fully staffed. So maybe looking at it, you know, a little bit too much of an East End perspective, but I certainly think the East End districts need a long hard look with a Task Force such as this to determine the proper staffing levels.

**LEG. BISHOP:**

I have no concern with having the issue studied, I just -- I'm not sure that this is a Task Force that's designed to work. I mean, we have a problem already right off the bat, because the Commissioner is -- I think he's indicated publicly that he's not going to participate, right; is that correct?

**CHAIRPERSON CARPENTER:**

I'm not aware that he has indicated publicly that he is not going to participate.

**LEG. BISHOP:**

I thought that was --

**D.P.O. CARPENTER:**

But, certainly, he doesn't have to personally participate. You know, I would imagine that he would assign someone from the department to participate.

**LEG. BISHOP:**

You know, it's just -- it's probably -- you know, it's going to no doubt engender a great concern in the Offices of the Police Commissioner that the unions are represented three times as much as the Department on this Task Force; is that correct? Or is it three and two?

**CHAIRPERSON CARPENTER:**

I don't think so that you could say that the --

**LEG. BISHOP:**

How many Police -- how many Police brass? I'm just going by what you just said before. I only

counted one Police representative when you articulated.

**CHAIRPERSON CARPENTER:**

And, certainly, as with any of these Task Forces, that I'm sure you can agree with over the years that we've seen, any time any of the departments participate, they certainly are free to bring whomever they wish from their department to participate. And, if you remember, during the drug -- the DARE Task Force that we had in place a couple of years ago, not only the Commissioner participated, but there was also one or two other members of his department that were at each and every of the Task Force meetings. So I guess it's up to them. Certainly, more is not a problem.

**LEG. BISHOP:**

Yeah. And the Task Force's work was, you know, ignored. So, the best Task Forces have some sort of balance. And, you know, the irony is I support increasing the staffing levels, but we should have had at it and done that when we had the opportunity through the budget process and we didn't. So, now, to have a Task Force now is, you know, what's the point? I mean, if we --

**D.P.O. CARPENTER:**

Well, you know --

**LEG. BISHOP:**

-- wanted to add cops, add cops, and put in a resolution to, you know -- with money to do it. But these Task Forces are -- you know, I think they're just public relations moves, but --

**CHAIRPERSON CARPENTER:**

Well, that certainly wasn't my intent in putting it together. And we have over the years added classes, we've added cops through grant money from the federal government with { COPS AHEAD} Program over the years. But did we ever really take a global look at the entire department and make sure that where the police were being added was where we really need them to be added? This was not a public relations ploy, but, rather, a means of looking at an issue that I think affects each and every one of the residents of this County. And I, you know, would hope you would support it, but, certainly, if you don't care to, we will understand.

**LEG. BISHOP:**

Thank you for that. I appreciate your understanding. It means a great deal to me.

**CHAIRPERSON CARPENTER:**

I know.

**LEG. BISHOP:**

But what I would argue is that why don't you, as the Public Safety Chairman, roll up your sleeves and do this work, and if you want more cops, put in bills for more cops? That's all. I'll support this --

**CHAIRPERSON CARPENTER:**

Thank you.

**LEG. BISHOP:**

-- because Task Forces, you know, it's easy, they're always easy.

**CHAIRPERSON CARPENTER:**

Okay.

**LEG. BISHOP:**

It's probably the easiest bill you can file.

**CHAIRPERSON CARPENTER:**

Well, I will just say one thing. Good, I'm glad you said it was easy. And since its so easy, I would certainly anticipate support from everyone that's been asked to serve on the Task Force, including the Police Commissioner or the Department, but when it comes to rolling up one's sleeves and working, I take my responsibilities in the Legislature very, very seriously and do not hesitate to roll up my sleeves, and anybody that knows me and knows how I approach this position I think would agree with that. Are there any other comments?

**LEG. LINDSAY:**

Yeah.

**CHAIRPERSON CARPENTER:**

Okay. We have -- Legislator Lindsay.

**LEG. LINDSAY:**

I guess --

**CHAIRPERSON CARPENTER:**

Excuse me. I guess Legislator Bishop wasn't finished, because he had another comment to make?

**LEG. BISHOP:**

I'm finished, I'm finished. Yes, I'm finished.

**CHAIRPERSON CARPENTER:**

Oh, okay.

**LEG. LINDSAY:**

I guess it was about a month or two back when the Police Commissioner was here and talking about the redeployment or giving the ability to his precinct commanders to redeploy, and I assume that's what was the initiative to get this bill introduced. And I'm supportive of the bill, but I question whether it's too early. The redeployment, if -- I don't even know whether it's taken place yet, or, if it has, it's really in its early stages, and I don't know. Can we measure yet whether -- because the one question I had to the Police Commissioner that day, is this going to jeopardize the safety of the public that we represent? And he said no, you know, it's just using our resources in a more efficient way. You know, I'm just questioning whether this is premature.

**CHAIRPERSON CARPENTER:**

Well, I prefer to be proactive and not reactive, so I for one don't think it's premature. And, again, redeploy to me means taking resources from one area and putting them someplace else. I don't know if we're actually redeploying, but we're saving dollars in shutting down cars and saving that money for a later date, so that's not exactly redeploying.

**LEG. LINDSAY:**

Well, I think it's a question --

**CHAIRPERSON CARPENTER:**

Okay.

**LEG. CRECCA:**

I have a question for --

**CHAIRPERSON CARPENTER:**

Legislator Lindsay, and then -- excuse me. O'Leary and then Crecca.

**LEG. O'LEARY:**

Yeah. I just have a couple of comments with respect to the resolution, and in response to Legislator Bishop's statement about the hiring of new police officers. I think -- I think one of the goals of this particular resolution and the Task Force that's formed as a result is to determine and justify if, in fact, that's a necessity based on the current deployment of personnel. Does this County need to hire police officers on an expedited basis as a result of the current deployment of personnel and the anticipated hirings in the future? This might create a situation where the Task Force may very well come up with a report that that should be a priority, based on the current staffing levels of the Suffolk County Police Department, that new hires are required. Just by way of a clarification to your statement about just hire, just go ahead and hire new police officers. This -- part of the goal of this Task Force should be to determine if that should be a priority in formulating future budgets, as you stated.

**LEG. BISHOP:**

So, if I put in a bill to hire more police officers --

**CHAIRPERSON CARPENTER:**

Excuse me.

**LEG. BISHOP:**

-- you wouldn't support it.

**LEG. O'LEARY:**

Me personally?

**LEG. BISHOP:**

Yeah.

**LEG. O'LEARY:**

I would always support hiring the police officers in every instance.

**LEG. BISHOP:**

Thank you for clarification.

**CHAIRPERSON CARPENTER:**

And I thank you for those comments, Legislator O'Leary. And speaking to acting too quickly on this, I think by having that information earlier in the year, before we start the Operating Budget process, will probably be helpful. Legislator Crecca.

**LEG. CRECCA:**

I just had a question for Legislator Bishop. I just -- you indicated that the Commissioner said -- indicated publicly that he would not participate in it? Do you believe that is a reason why we should not go forward with the Task Force?

**LEG. BISHOP:**

No.

**LEG. CRECCA:**

Okay.

**CHAIRPERSON CARPENTER:**

Okay. Thank you.

**LEG. BISHOP:**

The Task Force is doomed to failure.

**LEG. CRECCA:**

I'm sorry, I didn't --

**LEG. BISHOP:**

The Task Force is not going to work.

**CHAIRPERSON CARPENTER:**

It's doomed to failure is what he said. Okay.

**LEG. CRECCA:**

We'll see. We'll see.

**CHAIRPERSON CARPENTER:**

We have a motion and a second. All those in favor? Opposed? Abstain? ***Resolution is approved (Vote: 7-0-0-0).***

***1335 - Accepting donation of two (2) All Terrain Vehicles (ATV's) from the Town of Brookhaven (for the Suffolk County Police Department) (Losquadro).*** Motion by Legislator Losquadro.

**LEG. O'LEARY:**

Second.

**CHAIRPERSON CARPENTER:**

Second by Legislator O'Leary. All those in favor?

**LEG. LOSQUADRO:**

On the motion, please.

**CHAIRPERSON CARPENTER:**

On the motion, Legislator Losquadro.

**LEG. LOSQUADRO:**

I just -- I thought this was just a tie-in to the previous resolution. We had identified a need. The Seventh Precinct was without the ability to enforce the illegal ATV use on public lands, so we're able to identify this need. And I just want to go on record as thanking the Brookhaven Town Board, and the Supervisor, and the Department of Vehicle Control for donating these vehicles and allowing us to receive them for use in the Seventh Precinct for purposes of enforcement.

**LEG. LINDSAY:**

Could I.

**P.O. CARACAPPA:**

Thank you.

**LEG. LINDSAY:**

Madam Chair.

**CHAIRPERSON CARPENTER:**

I think Legislator O'Leary is next.

**LEG. LINDSAY:**

Okay. I'm sorry.

**D.P.O. CARPENTER:**

And then Legislator --

**LEG. O'LEARY:**

Did I?

**CHAIRPERSON CARPENTER:**

Yeah, did you not?

**LEG. O'LEARY:**

No.

**CHAIRPERSON CARPENTER:**

Oh, okay. I'm sorry. I thought someone over here --

**LEG. O'LEARY:**

It must be for the wooded areas in Legislator Losquadro's district.

**CHAIRPERSON CARPENTER:**



Legislator Lindsay.

**LEG. LINDSAY:**

I concur, that, you know, I appreciate donation of any equipment or money to the County, but -- and maybe a point of clarification. Wouldn't that be in the jurisdiction of the Police -- of the Park Police to enforce that?

**LEG. LOSQUADRO:**

They both serve that -- I'm sorry. Through the Chair. Both serve that function, the Police and also the Town of Brookhaven. I know I can speak for my own township in which I live, Town of Brookhaven Code Enforcement, Suffolk County Police, Park Police all perform sting and enforcement operations.

**LEG. O'LEARY:**

Can I respond to that, please?

**CHAIRPERSON CARPENTER:**

Certainly, Legislator O'Leary.

**LEG. O'LEARY:**

The Park Police has jurisdiction, Legislator Lindsay, on parks in the County of Suffolk. I think what Legislator Losquadro eluded to is that this would give the police officers assigned to the Seventh Precinct the ability to go into lands, other than parklands, County parks, for purposes of enforcing the -- what do you call those things?

**LEG. LOSQUADRO:**

ATV's.

**LEG. O'LEARY:**

Yeah, ATV's. Okay?

**CHAIRPERSON CARPENTER:**

Okay. So, we have a motion and a second. All those in favor? Opposed? ***Approved (Vote: 7-0-0).***

**SENSE RESOLUTIONS**

***Sense 17 - Resolution requesting that the New York State Legislature ban the use of Mobile Infrared Transmitters (MIRT's) (Carpenter).*** I'll make that motion, second by Legislator O'Leary.

**LEG. NOWICK:**

I have a question.

**CHAIRPERSON CARPENTER:**

Certainly, Legislator Nowick.

**LEG. NOWICK:**

I just want to know what that is, a Mobile Infrared --

**CHAIRPERSON CARPENTER:**

Yeah. As Legislator Lindsay just said, it's the device that enables public emergency vehicles to change a traffic light, so they can go through safely, and it's gotten in the hands of others, it's being sold, right.

**LEG. NOWICK:**

I remember now. Thank you.

**CHAIRPERSON CARPENTER:**

Okay. Thank you. All right. All those in favor? Opposed? Resolution is approved.

***Sense 25 - (Memorializing resolution) requesting Federal government to enforce immigration laws (Caracciolo).***

**LEG. BISHOP:**

Is it as simple as it says?

**CHAIRPERSON CARPENTER:**

I don't know. I'm just going to ask Counsel that. I'm looking at it quickly. Legislative Counsel, if you would just answer Legislator Bishop's question.

**LEG. LINDSAY:**

I doubt it.

**MS. KNAPP:**

It is -- Well, I mean, it does ask them to enforce the immigration laws. It does make reference, though, in the "resolved" to opposition to the construction, renting or funding of hiring halls until such time as the Federal Government fulfills its responsibility to fully enforce immigration laws. Other than that, then it just simply asks them to enforce to the maximum extent possible.

**LEG. LINDSAY:**

I'll second.

**CHAIRPERSON CARPENTER:**

Okay. We have a motion and a second. All those in favor? Opposed? Abstentions? ***The resolution is approved (Vote: 7-0-0-0).***

And that is the end of the agenda. If there is anything else anyone would like to raise? If not, the meeting is adjourned. Thank you.

***[THE MEETING WAS ADJOURNED AT 1:40 P.M.]***